Madurai Section of NH-49, a provision has been made in the Annual Plan 1990-91 for making up works amounting to Rs. 630 lakhs Against this, one work costing Rs 19 35 lakhs has already been sanctioned. Other estimates and proposals are still awaited from the State Governments. The expenditure on the sanctioned development works will be met out of allocation of Rs 2,600 lakhs and Rs 1,650 lakhs earmarked, respectively, for the States of Tamil Nadu and Kerala during the current financial year.

(b) and (c) The road section is generally in a traffic worthy condition and necessary repairs are being carried out by the respective State Government out of maintenance and repair funds for National Highway placed at their disposal Since, February, 1989, an expenditure of Rs 110 lakhs is reported to have been incurred by the State PWDs on maintenance of this section, as per latest figures available.

Conversion of Madras Telephones into a Corporation

760. SHRI S. VIDUTHALAI VIRUMBI:
SHRI V GOPALSAMY

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state

(a) whether there is any proposal to convert Madras Telephones into a Corporation; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS AND THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI JAI PRAKASH): (a) and (b) The Government has set up a High Level Committee to go into all aspects of restructuring of Telecom-Department, including Madras Telephones, and to recommend the most appropriate organisational structure keeping in view the developmental and operational needs as well as the financial implications etc. Appropriate decisions in the matter will be taken after the receipt of the Committee's Report.

Financing of East Coast road project by A.D.B.

769 SHRI S VIDUTHALAI VIRUMBI:
SHRI V. GOPALSAMY:

Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state

(a) whether it is a fact that Asian Development Bank has agreed to finance East Coast road project;

(b) if so, what is the total length of this road,

(c) what is the estimated cost of the project, and

(d) by when this project is expected to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI MANUBHAI KOTADIA): (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. Asian Development Bank has agreed to partly finance development of a section of East Coast Road in Tamil Nadu in a length of about 160 km at an estimated cost of Rs. 5400 crores The project is proposed to be completed in four years time after award of the work which is yet to be done by Tamil Nadu Government.

770 [*Transferred to the 8th January*, 1991]

Harassment of Families of Indian Mission Staff in Pakistan

771. SHRI SHIV PRATAP MISHRA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state.

(a) whether Government have taken up with Pakistan Government the harassment faced by family members of Indian missions' staff in Pakistan at the hands of Intelligence agencies of that Country;

(b) if so, the details of such incidents during the last three months, and

(c) the outcome of the protest lodged by Government with the Pakistan Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA): (a) and (b) There have been several instances of obstrusive surveillance and harassment of Indian diplomats and staff serving in out missions in Islamabad and Karachi, as well as of their families. All such incidents are invariably taken up with the Government of Pakistan, and appropriate protests lodged

(c) The Government of India hopes that the due steps would be taken to prevent the recurrence of such incidents in the futurs and that the Government of Pakistan will discharge its obligation under the Vienna Convention to ensure the security and safety of the personnel of diplomatic missions.

Hubli Telephone Exchange

772. SHRI J. P. JAVALI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that in Hubli exchange, out of 11000 lines, 6000 are overaged and fit for scraping;

(b) if so, whether this has resulted in deterioration of service; and

(c) whether government would consider the demand of the public for E-10-B Electronic Exchange for Hubli of 20,000 lines?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS AND THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI JAI PRAKASH) (a) The exchange is of 6000 lines capacity. 2400 lines out of this capacity have been already scrapped and replaced. Remaining lines are working satisfactorily.

(b) Does not arise

(c) So far there is no plan for installation of E 10B Exchange during 8th Plan period However 3000 lines ICP Cross Bar exchange is under installation and planned to be expanded to 8000 lines during current plan period

Narmada Project for Gujarat and other areas

773 SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to continue the policy of allowing Narmada Project for Gujarat and other areas to be completed without delay;

(b) whether Government are considering any assistance in any form to Narmada Project; if so, what are the details thereof, if not, the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether any environmental objection to Narmada Project is sustainable?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI MANUBHAI KOTADIA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) External assistance is being arranged for the project from the World Bank and OECF, Japan, amounting to US $ 450 million and 2850 million Yen, respectively. The Government have also set up Narmada Control Authority and Sardar Sarovar Construction Advisory Committee for resolving issues relating to inter-State environment, rehabilitation and for setting up Hydromet Net-work stations in the Narmada basin. The Union Government has also ordered releases of 2-7000 hectares of forest land in Dhule district for the purpose of resettlement of Maharashtra oustees of Sardar Sarovar Project

(c) No, Sir.